BIOS

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A Message From Your President

By Laurie Hamilton, P.Biol., ASPB President

As this is my first report to the membership, I thought I'd take this opportunity to say that I am honoured to be working with such a committed group of volunteers participating on the Board, as well as at ad-hoc events and on committees. In the past six years that I have volunteered with ASPB, I have seen momentum in development of the Society's infrastructure and profile, as well as engagement of the membership, thanks to folks such as Carol Engstrom, Gerry Haekel, Bob Holland, Robert Dallas, and Robin Leech.

ASPB Board Members and Support Team

From left to right:
Back row: Markus Thormann, Director / Gerry Haekel, Past President / Scott Grindal, Director / Gary Ash, Treasurer / Henri de Pennart, Director / Glenda Fratton, Secretary

Front row: Kashif Sheikh, Director / Joy Sager, Administrator / Laurie Hamilton, President / Tara Caseley, Director / Charles Macmichael, President Elect

Missing: Dave McInnes, Public Member / Dana Janssen, Webmaster / Linda Zimmerling, BIOS Editor / Myriam Zadnik, Mentorship Coordinator / Ross Bradford, Executive Director

ASPB Updates

It has been a busy and fruitious start to my term as President (started at the AGM in April, 2010). The Board and committees have worked well together to create an impressive list of accomplishments, some of which include:

- Board kick-off and strategy (SWOT) meeting in person in May, 2010
- The three regulated committees, Registration, Discipline and Practice Review, were approved by the Board and they have all started their new terms with a bang:
  - Registration Committee & Registrar have continued to review applications, refine the registration requirement process and work with BC towards establishing a united biological profession in Canada
  - Discipline Committee has met and reviewed the process of de-mystifying the complaints and discipline process
  - Practice Review Committee has met and produced a Terms of Reference for Board review

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BIOS is published for the enjoyment and benefit of the members of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists and those interested in the field of professional biology. Articles or comments are welcomed and should be sent to the editor, Linda Zimmerling at lindazim@shaw.ca.

Meet ASPB's New Executive Director, P. Ross Bradford

Much of my career has involved the management of change and growth within industry, government and not-for-profit. I believe my achievements have been realized by combining the identification and implementation of opportunities, with an excitement for getting something done.

I've been very fortunate to work with people who fostered a positive acceptance of change within an established team. I look forward to working with the members and leadership of ASPB to gather together the continued success that Albertans expect, require and deserve.

I look forward to meeting you.

ASPB - Call for Volunteers

ASPB 2011 Conference Organizing Committee needs your help

ASPB hopes to host the 2011 conference in Edmonton and to see a strong response from Edmonton & area-based volunteers.

Contact Charles Macmichael at Charles.Macmichael@stantec.com if you are interested in volunteering.

ASPB Ethics Committee

ASPB is looking for volunteers for the Ethics Committee to continue with the second phase of the ethics strategy. Volunteers can expect to participate about one hour a month for the next six months at meetings and additional hours required to review and work on items identified at the meetings. All interested members are invited to volunteer on this committee, as meetings will be held via conference call. If you are interested please contact Laurie at laurie@zanshinenvironmental.com by October 30, 2010.

ASPB Ethics Exam Update

Did you know there is an Ethics Exam topic in the Discussion Forum? Go to www.aspb.ab.ca/forums/1

The Ethics Exam is available on-line, through the ASPB website www.aspb.ab.ca in the 'Members' page, under 'Exams'.
The exam should take approximately 1/2 hour to complete.

All regular members have three years to complete the exam on-line; however, the ASPB encourages regular members to complete it sooner.
For Biologists-in-training, the Ethics Exam is now a requirement for re-classification.

Please direct all inquiries to pbiol@aspb.ab.ca and reference 'ASPB Ethics On-line Exam' in the subject line.

A Message From Your President (continued)

- Ad-hoc or non-regulated committees have also been active:
  - o The Ethics Committee launched the ethics exam in June, 2010
  - o Edmonton and Calgary Professional Development committees have been very active in providing workshops, Brown Bag Lunches (BBL) and events, including webinars, which have been a great success
  - o Communications Committee has maintained the delivery of high quality communications products, such as regular BIOS newsletters, weekly website updates and monthly e-bulletins (including an occasional special bulletin circulated when there is a critically important deadline or to promote ASPB-specific events/deadlines). Additionally:
    - A committee initiative, for raising the profile of ASPB by having booths at conferences, came to bear at the International Congress for Conservation Biology held in Edmonton this summer, where the ASPB hosted a booth (see article in this issue)
    - The Discussion Forum has a new feature added in August, 2010. Members can now choose to contribute anonymously
  - o Awards Committee continues to look at new ways to acknowledge substantial contributions to the practice of biology and within the membership
- Outreach to universities is ongoing and includes follow up on the ASPB scholarships, currently UofL and UofA have met their commitments. ASPB is currently working with UofC to re-assess their terms of reference to enable them to meet their commitments
- The Board has hired and familiarized a new Executive Director, P. Ross Bradford, in September 2010 (see article in this issue)
- Financially, we are under our projected budget (as of August 31, 2010), with November being the last month of our fiscal year. As a result of the interest in the financial statements expressed at the AGM, the Board has 'actioned' themselves to provide the new fiscal budget to the membership in a timely manner, with the target date for posting the new budget December, 2010 and a Discussion Forum subsequently initiated by the Board

The progress that we have made would not be possible without the fantastic efforts of our support staff:

- Joy and Shauna with Managewise continue to provide ASPB with top quality administrative and financial support.
- Linda Zimmerling provides professional communications products in the BIOS and e-bulletins.
- Our webmaster, Agilestyle, provides a very quick turnaround on requests to accommodate our changing needs.
- Myriam, our mentorship coordinator, has offered suggestions for different approaches to improve participation from the members and provides a different approach to mentorship.
- P. Ross Bradford, Executive Director and our newest team member, has already shown his eagerness to facilitate ASPB's current trajectory while providing ideas for implementing all of the great initiatives and visions from the membership.

Current Board Initiatives

Current Board initiatives are to:

- Continue development of a volunteer recognition award
- Update the website
- Continue outreach to Alberta universities
- De-centralize ASPB events/opportunities
- Participate in development of professional sign-off, through participation in PRO-6 and JEPP meetings
- Launch an updated mentorship program
- Produce a balanced budget
- Research member's benefits, such as insurance packages

I encourage further participation of the membership in volunteer opportunities, representing ASPB in a variety of ways. Through volunteer participation, volunteers can gain professional development points, participate in networking opportunities and skills development, and support ASPB in continuing its momentum, while maintaining cost controls. We have had some fantastic event participation by members in a variety of ways.

> For example, a member participated in Career Day for Bearspaw School in Calgary on May 7. She hosted a booth to highlight a career as a biologist. There were about 120 students from Grades 7 and 8 present. She set up an ASPB floor display and ASPB supplied her with printed materials and 'swag'.

Members are encouraged to present their initiatives to ASPB, such as the one in the example, as well as participate in existing opportunities. The following is a sample of current volunteer opportunities:

- ASPB 2011 Conference Organizing Committee
- Ethics Committee
- Mentors
- Professional Development Committee
- Website

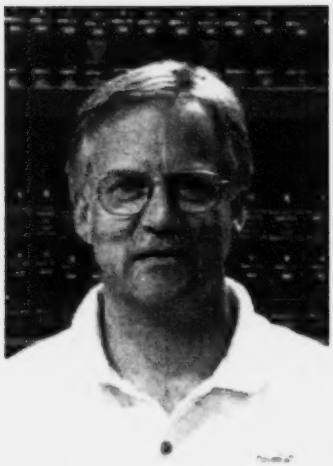
I am excited to participate in the growth of this organization, as the need for the presence of Professional Biologists in Alberta grows. I feel this is a group effort and am thankful for the marvelous contributions of members thus far. I look forward to continuing representing the ASPB membership and implementing what I believe are the membership's visions in the short term, as well as setting the stage for longer-term goals.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to pbiol@aspb.ab.ca or start a discussion topic in the Discussion Forum.

Interview with a Biologist: Garry Mann, P.Biol.

By Ngaio Hotte, P.Biol.

About the Biologist



Garry Mann's career has evolved dramatically over the years. If you ask him about it, he'll tell you that he wouldn't change a thing.

Currently the General Manager of Health, Safety and Environment for Nexen, Inc., Garry began his career as a young environmental consultant with a focus on zoology and aquatic ecology. His interest in biology was piqued during a summer working for Alberta Fish and Wildlife. At the time, he was on track to become a teacher, but quickly switched his major to zoology.

He continued with graduate studies at the University of Alberta, conducting research on whitefish to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the arctic gas program. "I've often wondered what impact our studies had on the whitefish population," he says. The studies involved sampling large numbers of fish, and took place when little was known about the effects of human activity on fish populations.

After graduating from the University of Alberta in the mid-1970s, Garry joined a small consulting firm owned and managed by one of his external graduate school advisors. He spent the next decade conducting biological studies, primarily for the energy sector in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

In 1978, Garry received an offer from Imperial Oil to manage environmental impact studies for oil sands, coal and mineral projects; an exciting opportunity at a time when interest in environmental impact assessment was growing within the oil and gas sector. Garry seized the offer and remained with the company for 15 years before moving to a new position with Canadian Occidental that encompassed additional responsibilities for the areas of health, safety, and social responsibility. Garry has remained with the company ever since, as it expanded and became Nexen, Inc.

While he tries to stay closer to home and family these days, Garry's job has offered him the opportunity for travel to exciting new regions throughout Nexen's operating area. He and his family were first posted in Yemen, in the Middle East. The cultural differences and extreme environment presented unique challenges and an excellent opportunity for learning. His three-year posting ended abruptly when civil war erupted. Garry and his family were rescued and airlifted to safety in Djibouti, Africa. Though the situation was frightening at the time, he reflects on the experience as being valuable for him and his family.

Despite the broad scope of his responsibilities, Garry still feels a personal connection to endangered species issues. In particular, he feels a strong sense of responsibility for the Grizzly Bear, a species close to his heart. "The Grizz is symbolic of the wilderness and what's left of it. They're highly vulnerable, but left with sufficient habitat, they can do fairly well." Where possible, he tries to direct resources to research into mitigating impacts of operations on endangered species like the Grizzly Bear.

Changes in the Field of Biology

During his career, Garry has noticed fewer and fewer biologists specializing in narrow fields of practice. "Most biologists have broadened their horizons and become more general," he explains. "The environmental field is widening to include social, environmental, economic and technical sustainability." Garry feels the change is positive, because it provides new career opportunities and perspectives. Where possible, Garry does his best to minimize the negative impact of Nexen's investments in the extractive sector on the environment and communities.

Garry admits that he misses some aspects of consulting work, like the opportunity to interact closely with the environment. He spends much of his time in meetings, negotiating at length to solve challenging problems, and sometimes wishes he could be back on the banks of a river getting his hands wet. But he certainly doesn't miss the harsh working conditions and recalls long hours in freezing cold temperatures, drilling holes through six to seven feet of ice to collect water samples from the Beaufort Sea.

Garry still feeds his appetite for the outdoors with the occasional fishing trip and takes every opportunity to share his appreciation for plants and wildlife with his two grandchildren.

Words of Wisdom

All-in-all, he's happy with his career and accomplishments. "I started off wanting to save the world, but I like to think I've made a small contribution," he chuckles.

> He advises young biologists to stick to their ideals, seize new opportunities as they arise, and remain open to new ideas and opinions.

While true progress in the environmental field is often slow to materialize, Garry asserts the importance of seeking all points of view from everyone from strident conservationists to industry representatives.

Edmonton Regional Science Fair Review

Thanks for Judging at ERSF
By Peter Dang, Chief Judge

I just wanted to thank all of you for volunteering your Saturday to help judge at the ERSF. Your contribution encouraged students to continue their explorations of science. Your comments on the forms were helpful to the students for the development of their future work. Your work that day also allowed us to select the very best from Edmonton to compete against the best from all over Canada. For the list of winners from this year's ERSF, and for the results of Team Edmonton at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, please go to the website www.ersf.ca .

I hope that you enjoyed judging at the ERSF and I hope to see you back again next year. I will have detailed instructions on how to sign up so that problems will be avoided. I would also like to thank the judges who signed up but could not make it and were courteous enough to contact me to let me know. Though you could not make it this year, I hope that you are able to judge next year.

This is my first year at the Chief Judge position and I hope that any glitches that popped up were quickly taken care of, and that you had a good time as a judge. I will continue to evolve the judging process to make it even better next year. If you have any suggestions on how we can make it better or any comments, please feel free to contact me.

See you again next year!

With much gratitude,

Peter Dang

Judges and ASPB Award Recipients at ERSF
By Robin Leech, P.Biol.

I have been judging Edmonton Regional Science Fairs since 1978. Even though the same topic may appear over the years, how each student puts his or her own spin on a project is fascinating. New young minds, I love them. There is an indescribable pleasure in matching wits and drawing out information and listening to explanations from new young minds. Another joy is seeing and greeting a student from a previous year who says, "I know you. You study spiders!"

For the first time in so many years I cannot recall, we had 4 people judging for the ASPB Special Award.

It is amazing just how many views even only 4 people can generate.

Judges were Kerri Charest, P.Biol., Jenna Donald (MSc student at U of A in BioSciences), Robin Leech, P.Biol., and Lorie Taylor, BGS, B.Ed. Dave Ealey, P.Biol., was there, as was Tony Mah, P.Biol.

1ST ASPB Special Award
#602. Gross Misconduct. Mason Rockwood.

3 Honourable Mentions:

#520. Size Does Matter. Aaron Felstad
 # 604. Would You Drink This Water? Shreya Pillai
 # 623. Can't Touch This. Ardith Wilson

Judge's Perspectives

I have been a judge for the last few years. The student's enthusiasm, creativity and resourcefulness are always a treat. I am most impressed when students create their own project that changes something in their lives for the better. It is an honour and a pleasure to see the scientific talent emerge and grow each year!

Lorie J. Taylor, Artist and Teacher

I have judged for 3 years at the Edmonton Regional Science Fair and each year has offered a new experience. This year, I assisted in judging for the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists award for a biological study by a Grade 4-6 student. I was impressed by these young students who succeeded in expanding my knowledge. Their enthusiasm for the studies was inspiring. **I highly recommend that all ASPB members check out future science fairs...and volunteer!**

Kerri Charest, P. Biol.

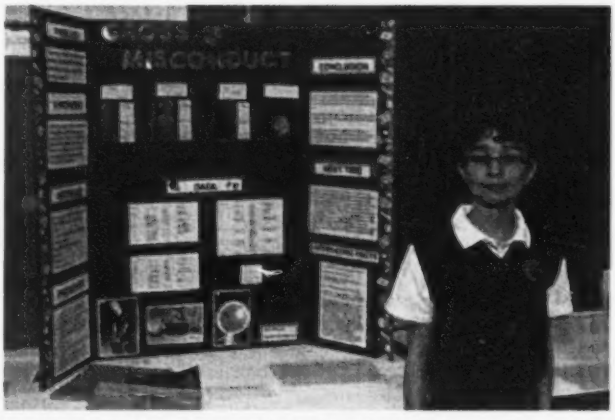


Photo courtesy of ERSF. Gross Misconduct by Mason Rockwood.

Photo credit Lorie Taylor Leech. ASPB Special Award to Mason Rockwood.

Photo credit Lorie Taylor Leech. ASPB Honourable Mention to Aaron Felstad.

Spiders and Other Critters in the Wagner Natural Area

by Robin Leech, P.Biol.

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, and humans are part of that diversity - even if we don't want to admit it. We alone have the power to destroy it, and we alone have the power to protect and maintain it. Human activity is causing the biodiversity on Earth to decrease at alarming, and greatly accelerating rates over the past 100 or more years. We are damaging and destroying the life-support systems we rely on, yet our knowledge about these systems is minuscule. How can we save these systems if we don't know what is in them, let alone how they function? In my own small way, I am trying to know what is in at least part of one small system.

Let's backtrack for a moment to summer 1985, when a huge number of invertebrates was collected in the Wagner Natural Area (WNA), among them spiders, which are my bag.

Photo credit Lorie Taylor Leech. A sample of the spiders collected at the Wagner Natural Area during the summer of 2010. The biggest spider on the left is a female wolf spider (family Lycosidae).

In 1985, staff at the Royal Alberta Museum, with graduate student assistants from the University of Alberta, did a blitz to collect arthropods (insects, spiders, mites, millipedes, centipedes) and other invertebrates (slugs, snails, etc.) as part of a nation-wide objective to study the fauna and flora in wetlands in Canada. Scientists who published on the fauna collected in the WNA 1985 blitz, reported and published (in the early 90s) on 78 species of spiders (actually, ones I had identified for them!). In 1985, I estimated that there may be as many as 300 species of spiders in the WNA. The WNA is definitely a wetland, as it is boggy and has marl springs.

In the late 80s and early 90s, I worked on the spider material from WNA. Either I worked on it, or it would be thrown out. By the year 2000, I had identified over 200 species of spiders and there were still many more unidentified. During summer holidays and long weekends while I worked at NAIT, and later as the Executive Director of the ASPB, I slowly identified more of the spiders from the WNA, and by 2006 I had found 210 species, of which about 20 were new to science (that is, had never been described!). We expect to find over 30 species new to science, each of which will have to be laboriously and carefully described, and then each description must be supported by drawings and photographs of the diagnostic parts.

Between 1985 and about 2004, the Wagner Natural Area almost doubled in size to become just shy of being a section of land (640 acres or 259 hectares). The newly acquired land had habitats in it that were not in the original WNA.

Starting in 2007, I made my first applications for permits to start collecting spiders in the WNA, which is about 6 km west of Edmonton on the south side of the Yellowhead, Highway 16 (go to Google and type in "Wagner Natural Area"). I wanted to collect mainly in habitats and areas that had not been sampled during the1985 blitz, and which had not been part of the WNA in 1985. However, permission to collect on occupied land is no longer the simple matter of going there and collecting (as it used to be when I was a student some 40 years ago). Permits and permissions are required, first from the Alberta Government, and then from the land owners and/or land managers. With the permission come caveats: each visit requires a phone call; must be accompanied by someone; $2 million public liability insurance; and so on. Things have changed. Subsequent applications went nowhere until 2010.

Keeping in mind that 2010 is the UN's Year of Biodiversity, I applied in March and April 2010. I approached Alberta Government (Alberta Parks of Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture). The requirement of $2 million liability insurance was dropped, as were several other limiting factors. The Alberta Government gave me permission to collect in the WNA. Now, with the Alberta Government permits in hand, Lorie (my wife) and I approached the Board of Directors of the Wagner Natural Area Society. After presentations to both bodies, approval was given for Lorie and me to start collecting spiders and other invertebrates starting 1 May and continuing through until 31 August. Unintended collaterals, such as small vertebrates, were acknowledged by the Directors as possible catches in the traps.

We used three kinds of traps to collect the specimens: pitfall traps (holes dug into the ground) covered with a flat metal lid to keep leaves and rain out; yellow pan traps (set on the surface), mainly for Hymenoptera; and a Malaise trap (looks like a tent - check Google on this one! Type in: Malaise Trap). The traps were serviced twice per week, and fluids replaced every 2 weeks or so. The collected material was sorted immediately - immediately meaning as soon as

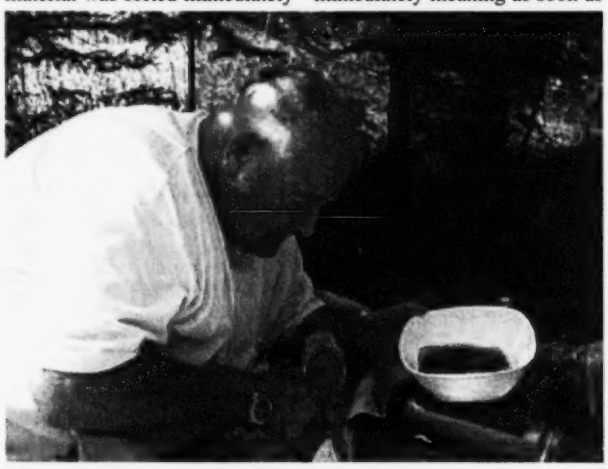


Photo credit Lorie Taylor Leech. Robin Leech emptying one of the spider traps at the Wagner Natural area, summer 2010.

Spiders and Other Critters in the Wagner Natural Area (continued)

we returned from servicing the traps. Sorting took 2 to 3 days, as frequently there were many specimens.

By September, all the material had been collected and sorted, and sent to the various specialists. Carabid beetles went to my former professor, Dr George Ball; lady bird beetles went to John Acorn (the Nature Nut); and the remaining beetles went to Greg Pohl at the Northern Forestry Research Centre, Edmonton. All the ants (20 species) went to a U of A graduate student, James Glasier; and the remaining Hymenoptera (bees and wasps) went to Dr Henri Goulet in Ottawa for DNA studies. The slugs and snails went to Robert Forsyth of Smithers, BC for identification. Collaterally collected frogs, toads, shrews and jumping mice have already been taken to Drs Mark Edwards and Mark Steinhilber of the Royal Alberta Museum.

We caught three male Strepsiptera (twisted-wing insects), each of a different species. Specialists in Texas and Germany confirm this, and that each is most likely a new species. Strepsipterans are very rare, and microscopic. There are other groups – so far, I have not found specialists for the Pseudoscorpionida (7-8 spp.) or the millipedes (2 spp.) and centipedes (4-5 spp.).

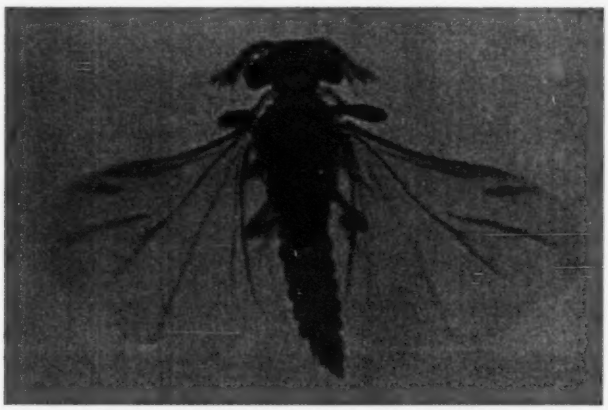


Photo credit: Robin Leech, P.Biol. A male strepsipteran (twisted-wing insects) caught at the Wagner Natural Area. The specimen is 1.4 mm long, and the picture was taken through a stereo microscope. The females of Strepsiptera are parasitic, flightless and legless. Family Elenchidae, Elenchus new species.

The spiders? I have them. All of them. There are many thousands of them in 3-dram vials, many unsorted even to family. The interesting ones I looked at right away. For example, an oonopid spider was spotted. It appears to be the first record for Alberta. The identifications alone will keep me busy for several years. To date, we have found 232 species of spiders, which is approaching my original guesstimate in 1985 of about 300 species, and we still have just shy of 550 vials to examine. Most vials contain several dozen specimens.

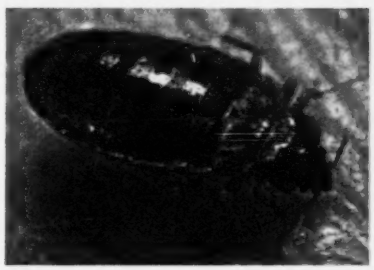
The faunal elements at the WNA are beginning to emerge. About 85% of the spiders are representative of boreal, Arctic and Yukon-Alaska origins. This suggests that these spiders may have used the central-Alberta ice-free corridor during the Wisconsinan Glaciation, or that they may have survived in a local wandering glacial refugium. These are issues we are examining with surficial geologists, such as long-time friends Nat Rutter and Len Hills. The least we can expect of these faunal elements is that they represent the fauna that was here before we started clearing and plowing, then burning, fertilizing and biociding all the areas around. This left the Wagner Natural Area as an island fortress in a sea of cleared and cultivated lands for the fauna to retreat to and survive in.

I will co-author the paper on the Spiders of the Wagner Natural Area with my good friend and arachnologist, Don Buckle, of Saskatoon. And now back to my spider identifications and descriptions!

Post Script: On October 6 I was given a substantial sum of money by CanaColl (Canadian Collections) in Ottawa to purchase ethanol to preserve the spiders and other specimens.

Bed Bug Epidemic - TRUE

by Robin Leech, P.Biol.



Most of our clothing, sheets, towels, etc., now come from companies outside North America. Even the most expensive stores sell foreign clothing from China, Indonesia, India, etc.

The bed bugs are coming in on the clothing, as these countries do not consider bed bugs a problem. I recommend that if you buy any new clothing (underwear, socks, suits, sheets, hats, towels, etc.) that you bring them into the house and take them directly to your clothes dryer. Put them in the dryer for at least 20 minutes. The heat will kill the bed bugs and their eggs.

DO NOT HANG THE NEWLY PURCHASED CLOTHES IN THE CLOSET UNTIL YOU HAVE DONE THIS!

It does not matter what the price of the clothing is, or if the outfit comes from the most expensive stores. Stores still get shipments from these off-shore countries, and the bugs can come in a box of scarves or anything else.

This is the reason so many stores, many clothing stores, have had to shut down in NYC and other places. All you need is to bring one item into the house that has bugs or eggs and you will go to hell and back trying to get rid of them.

To paraphrase: a milligram of prevention is worth more than a kilogram of attempts to cure.

If you go to a hotel or motel, check the bedding. But first, give a good "sniff" of the room. Bed bugs have a distinct, acrid smell. Look at cracks in the wall. If there are small, dark "fly spec-like" dots on the sides of the cracks, there are bed bugs present. Next, put your suitcase on top of the metal fold-out stand provided for this. Check the mattress, too, especially along the seams.

2010 ASPB Conference and AGM Review

by Kristen Vinke, P.Biol. and Linda Zimmerling, P.Biol.

The ASPB Annual General Meeting and Conference "Innovations and Advancements in Biology" was held at the Calgary Zoo on April 14 and 15, 2010. Planning for the conference began in November 2009. The conference committee was composed of a dedicated and diverse group of ASPB members from industry, government, environmental consulting and non-government organizations. The conference was very well attended.

The ASPB Conference committee was privileged to have a number of speakers (and posters) representing a wide range of topics. Presentations, as well as abstracts and presenter's biographies are on the ASPB website (www.aspb.ab.ca) under '2010 Conference Presentations' and '2010 Conference Program', respectively.

Creating the program involved a call for papers, with all submissions included as either a talk or as a poster displayed at the event. The ASPB program committee also invited a number of speakers to round out the program in a meaningful way. The presentations were divided into four sessions:

- Reclamation;
- Wildlife Management;
- Aquatics; and
- Survey and Assessment Methods

Overall, the conference was a success and positive feedback was received through discussions after the presentations, and from the conference feedback forms. The 160 conference attendees included delegates, presenters, and sponsors with a mix of consultants (62%), government (12%) and others (26%).

The ASPB received very positive feedback for the sessions in terms of relevance and quality of the presentations. The choice of venue also scored highly. Overall, the conference appeared to achieve the goals of keeping members informed about innovations and advancements in biology in Alberta and beyond, providing opportunities to network, and helping ASPB members fulfill their professional development requirements.

The Calgary Zoo provided additional attractions for the conference delegates. Holding the conference at the zoo was definitely an added bonus for a group of biologists.

If you are interested in being a part of the 2011 conference committee, see the Call for Volunteers article on page 2 of this issue of BIOS for more details.

Manning the ASPB Booth at the ICCB Conference

By Keith Whelpdale

While many of you were out in the field, Linda and I were fortunate enough to attend the 24th International Congress for Conservation Biology, which was held in Edmonton from July 3rd to 7th. We were manning the ASPB booth that was set up in one of the large halls, where over 50 organizations had booths. There were some amazing displays. This was where people congregated during the refreshment breaks, and where some great networking and information sharing took place. It was also the place where the posters were displayed.

The congress was attended by students and professional biologists, as well as lawyers and economists (which was still OK). It was a real eye opener to see how many fields conservation biology touches. Researchers at every stage in their careers and from every continent presented their work and results. The presentations were organized into 2 hour symposiums of related presentations that would allow attendees to see a diverse cross-section of viewpoints in each symposium. There were as many as 12 salons with concurrent presentations, and we found there were so many interesting presentations in different symposia that we were bouncing from one salon to the next during the applause.

During the breaks, we were able to reach out to a number of biology students looking for information about the Society, as well as working biologists from Quebec and New Zealand involved in setting up professional organizations in their own jurisdictions. They were eager to make contact with the ASPB in order to inform their own process. The pamphlet the ASPB provided helped us prepare for the questions people were asking, and we encouraged people to go the website for further details.

We had a great time at the ASPB booth. We learned a little bit more about each other, the ASPB, and a lot more about conservation biology. We would recommend that all ASPB members pursue volunteer activities for the benefit of the Society, as well as their own professional development.

ASPB's Discussion Forum

Professional biologists are sharing their insights on a variety of topics. Get involved! Do you have a question you need answered? Ask your peers through the Discussion Forum. Some topics are controversial, but they need to be discussed. Post it to the Discussion Forum.

The newest version of the ASPB's Discussion Forum has added features. It now allows you to post topics and contribute under a ***pseudonym,*** just click this link to Edit Preferences. All you need to do is select a fairly respectable biological epithet and login to the Home>Members>Forums>Edit Preferences. Don't forget to click the box marked 'Enable Forums Pseudonym'. Note that if the pseudonym is used and then you uncheck 'Enable Forums Pseudonym', it reverts to your real name.

Do you like this option? There is a discussion forum set up to see what the members would like to see in the ASPB Discussion Forum, just click on this link to contribute to the discussion. Both the top and bottom of the Discussion Forum page have links to 'Post a new topic'. You can copy and paste text and even add attachments! Check it out!

Current Topics:

- Welcome to the ASPB Forums – this gives you some helpful hints for posting a topic and provides access to the webmaster if you encounter difficulties.
- Pseudonym and future updates to the Discussion Forum
- Should the ASPB endorse ASRD procedural standards for Species at Risk?
- Ethics Exam
- Calgary Professional Development Committee
- Workshop Suggestions
- The Future of Alberta's Grizzly Bear
- Boreal Woodland Caribou populations are not substantively influenced by wolf density
- Alberta Woodland Caribou Population Declines – Science or Speculation

Great News for the ASPB Endowment Scholarship

The U of A has now matched the ASPB $25 K scholarship money for the ASPB Endowment Scholarship.

This means the ASPB Endowment Scholarship will be drawing interest from $50 K rather than $25 K. To date, the U of L and the U of A have matched ASPB's $25 K funds.

Province Seeks Input

Province seeks input on proposed land exchange at Kananaskis area park.

Follow this link to provide your input: http://alberta.ca/home/NewsFrame.cfm?ReleaseID=/acn/201010/292346863C44C-E7E8-AC12-63A7A85530D6EE01.html

Temporary Withdrawn or Associated Status

The Temporary Withdrawn Biologist category was created to allow people to temporarily withdraw from the ASPB because of short-term (up to 2 years) circumstances that prevent them from practicing in the province, but they fully intend to return to practice after this period. The classic examples are maternity leave, unemployment or someone accepting a 1 to 2 year assignment out of the country. If a person intends to leave the practice of biology for more than 2 years and wishes to remain affiliated with the ASPB they can switch to Associated Biologist. Associated status could also be referred to as 'Retired' status.

The main difference between these categories is that the Temporary Withdrawn Biologist can change to Professional Biologist simply by requesting the change and paying the regular fees, whereas an Associated Biologist must re-apply. Neither a Temporary Withdrawn nor an Associated Biologist may use the title P. Biol. There is a nominal charge for membership in either category. Please contact Shauna at the ASPB office for more information or to apply for either of these categories. Shauna can be reached at 780-434-5765 or by email at pbiol@aspb.ab.ca

ASPB Insurance Coverage

HUB International — Our Insurance. Your Advantage.™

HUB International Insurance Brokers offers an insurance program specifically designed for members of the **Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB)**. This program is part of group coverage subscribed to by numerous professional associations nationwide, providing you with the power to leverage the best insurance coverage, value and service on the strength of our vast global resources and solid local relationships.

- Coverage includes Professional Errors & Omissions Liability (Professional E&O), with optional Commercial General Liability (CGL).
- Professional E&O coverage can be purchased with limits of $250,000, $500,000, $1 million, $2 million or $5 million.
- CGL coverage can be purchased with limits of $1 million, $2 million, $3 million and $5 million.
- Pollution Liability coverage as well as Property Insurance is also available.

For more information, visit us at **www.hubprofessional.com**, or contact **Jordan Fellner** of HUB International Insurance Brokers to obtain further details.

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T: 1.800.606.9968 T: 604.899.3509 F: 604.293.1453
E: tos.vanprof@hubinternational.com

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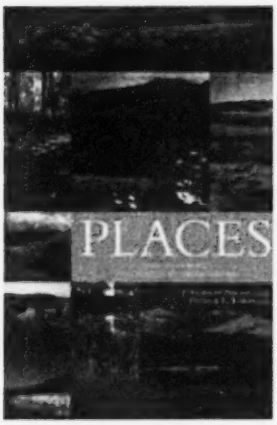
Book Review - *Places: Linking Nature, Culture and Planning*

J. Gordon Nelson and Patrick L. Lawrence

by Keith Whelpdale



Global warming, species at risk, inflation, unemployment, and natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions; with a nod to each of these concerns and the growing human awareness of each, as well as a lament over the lack of information and coverage regarding how all these changes come together to affect "the places we live, visit and hear about" (p.xv), the authors begin a broad overview of the ABC Resource Survey Methodology (ABC) as a planning tool. ABC analysis is presented as "a comprehensive dynamic and interactive approach to land use mapping and research" (p.41).

ABC is comprehensive in that it includes: Abiotic features including geologic, landform, and hydrologic information; Biotic features such as plant, animal and soil features; and Cultural features such as land use, economic, human heritage and other human information. It is dynamic in that it can be used to prepare historic maps and analysis and to link abiotic, biotic and cultural patterns, processes and changes both historically and for current analysis. It is interactive in that it can be used in a cross-disciplinary manner to link scientists, scholars, planners and managers to the planning process. It can also be used to involve businessmen and concerned citizens for mapping research and planning.

Places is presented in five parts plus a general introduction. Part I provides Detailed Analytical Studies, this section describes the key concepts required for developing an understanding of ABC through early ABS analysis work completed in the 1980s and 1990s. Part II contains focused summaries of detailed studies. The studies selected for inclusion demonstrate the broad applicability of the ABC approach. Examples include the approach being used to determine the ""best" management alternative for each Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) in a region" (p.182), as was demonstrated in the case of the East Beaufort Sea Coast, to improvements in the utility of remotely-sensed data such as satellite photography when used in the context of a "comprehensive…resource and environmental survey system such as the ABC method." (p.248)

Part III is made up of comprehensive overviews and assessments. It is particularly interesting that the authors were able to follow up on work conducted 20 years earlier that had been presented in Part I regarding the creation of a National Park on the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario. Part IV continues with Rapid Reconnaissance Studies demonstrating how ABC can be applied in as little as a few days. Finally, Part V deals with Communication and Education starting with a summary of a report prepared for the Grand River watershed in Ontario. I grew up catching snakes, frogs and turtles in this watershed, so this section was of particular personal interest. Using ABC as "the underlying framework to organize and communicate information" is a powerful tool for developing documents that can fulfill the authors' aim to "build greater understanding of the broad social and cultural characteristics of these places"(p437).

Overall the authors were able to demonstrate the broad functionality of ABC in such a way that an interested layperson, like me, was able to gain excellent insight into the diverse applicability of ABC. The book "is intended for…students, professionals and civic decision-makers who aspire to better things in the future." The authors have been successful in providing an excellent resource for each of these target audiences.

In the next issue of BIOS I will be reviewing The Algal Bowl by David W. Schindler and John R. Vallentyne.

Nature Alberta Book Sale

HOW TO ORDER:

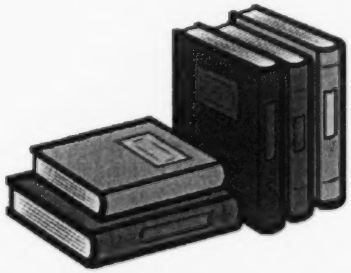
On-line: www.naturealberta.ca (secure website) or email info@naturealberta.ca

By phone: (780) 427–8124; Fax (780) 422–2663
In person: Nature Alberta (Formerly Federation of Alberta Naturalists), 11759 Groat Road, Edmonton AB T5M 3K6

Alberta Butterflies $19.95 (REG $25)
Field Guide to Alberta Birds $15 (REG $24.95)
Fish, Fur & Feathers $20 (REG $39.95)
Living by Urban Lakes $14.95 (REG $19.95)
Prairie River: A Canoe and Wildlife Viewing Guide to the South Saskatchewan River $9 (REG $14.95)
The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta $24.95 (REG $45)
The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta: a Second Look $25 (REG $64.95)
White as a Ghost: Winter Ticks and Moose $14.95(REG $24.95)

Please add 5% GST, plus Shipping
Shipping and handling Charges
Canadian Orders : $7 for 1st item, $3 each additional;
US Orders: $12 for 1st item, $4 each additional;
Outside Can & US: $19 for 1st item, $4 each additional

Prices in effect while supplies last, or until Nov.30, 2010



Ellis Bird Farm Bug Jamboree

By Charles Bird, ASPB Honorary member

In early August, the Ellis Bird Farm (near Lacombe, Alberta) had a Bug Jamboree, followed by a Butterfly Count and Hike. I have had the privilege of participating in the events by manning a display and helping lead the Count. Several hundred folks attend: mainly parents and youngsters that are interested in "bugs". Up to six additional entomologists show up and have their own displays, e.g., John Acorn (Bugs of Alberta, etc.) & Nora Bryan (author of a book on garden bugs). We had a fun and well-attended event this year and I was pleased to have Heather attend.

Visit http://www.ellisbirdfarm.ca/ for more information and upcoming events for 2011.

COSEWIC's Fall 2010 Call for bids

For your information, COSEWIC's Fall 2010 Call for bids for the preparation of status reports is now posted on the COSEWIC website (www.cosewic.gc.ca). For this call, the posting dates are October 6 - November 17, 2010.

The call for bids features six terrestrial mammals, two marine mammals, nine birds, six reptiles, four amphibians, four freshwater fishes, four marine fishes, five arthropods, five molluscs, eleven vascular plants, and three mosses and lichens .

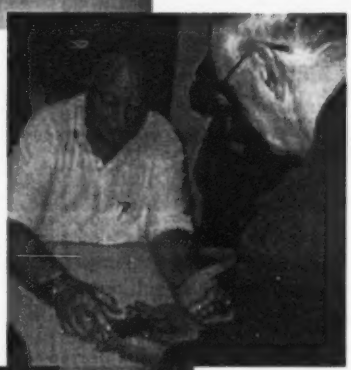
I encourage you to distribute notice of this call widely. For your information, to be automatically advised by email of future COSEWIC calls for bids, Register on the COSEWIC website by following instructions provided after clicking on the "Stay Informed" section on the upper taskbar of the homepage.

Thank you for your continued work in support of COSEWIC.

Spiderman: Back by Popular Demand

Spiderman (Robin Leech) made another visit to the Hinton Municipal Library. He, and his friendly spider, were a real crowd pleaser.

Pamela Stewart (left), of the Hinton Municipal Library, and Beth MacCallum, P.Biol. (in blue on the right).



Parents and kids gathering around after the spider talk. As you can see, even the moms were into it, and really having a good time.

Photo credits: Lorie Taylor Leech

Upcoming Events and Conferences

October 22 Innovation in Canada's Resource Sectors
A Public Policy Forum conference 8:30am to 2:45pm
The Fairmont Palliser Hotel 133 9th Avenue SW, Calgary *Alberta Ballroom*

This gathering will engage senior representatives from the mining, forestry, oil and gas, and agricultural resource sectors in Canada as well as federal and provincial government leaders. We will seek to assess the state of innovation in the resource industry, highlighting current successes and identifying how these successes can be built upon by others. The focus will be on specific actions that can help make Canada's resource sectors more creative, competitive, and resilient.

http://www.ppforum.ca/events/resource-innovation

November 9 Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) Fall Water Workshop - Water Quality, Water Allocation, Wetland Policy & Groundwater
Black Knight Inn - Red Deer 2929-50th Avenue
For more information and to register visit www.albertawater.com and click on the Calendar for November 9 or email deb.sutton@gov.ab.ca

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November 12 J.B. Harkin Award Dinner Gala - UofC
Please join the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society as we celebrate our magnificent national parks and honour the Panel on Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks with the prestigious J.B Harkin medal for conservation. The 2010 J.B Harkin Award Dinner Gala will be held on Friday, November 12, 2010 at 7pm at the Red & White Club at the University of Calgary.

Featured guest speaker Dr. Stephen Herrero

Enjoy a delicious dinner, live music, and a viewing of the beautiful, prize-winning photos and videos from our Celebrate Parks Video Contest and the CPAWS Southern Alberta chapter's Capture the Wild photo contest, along with a silent auction.
Tickets: $70 per person or $520 per table of eight (Charitable receipt of $35 for each seat reservation).
Visit http://www.cpaws.org/harkin/#buy to reserve your seat today or visit http://www.cpaws.org/harkin for more information.

P.S. We are also pleased to present a free afternoon seminar on November 12th, in conjunction with the Faculty of Environmental Design (EVDS) at the University of Calgary. The seminar, entitled **'The Future of Ecological Integrity in Our Parks and Protected Areas'** features expert panelists and audience participation in a thought-provoking discussion on the challenges we face in restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of our national park. For more information visit www.cpaws.org/harkin

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November 18 and 19, Green Industry Show & Conference
Edmonton Expo Centre www.greenindustryshow.com

November 24-26 Energy Services Summit- Edmonton
Get the full details for this highly anticipated networking event on the newly launched website at www.energyservicessummit.com

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Looking Ahead - 2011

April 17-22, 2011 SAMPAA 7: The Evolution of Protected Areas: Renewing our Passion and Purpose The Banff Centre, Banff National Park
Abstract submission deadline - November 1, 2010
Over the last century, Canada has built an inspiring system of parks and protected areas. SAMPAA 7 falls on the centennial anniversary of the Dominion Parks Service (Parks Canada) as well as on the centennial for establishment of the first provincial park in British Columbia. These centennials offer a special opportunity to reflect on the evolution of protected areas as a concept, and to explore the relationship of society with protected areas in the future.
Visit http://sampaa.org/meetings/conference-2011

September 18 –21, 2011 Mine Closure 2011 Conference
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise, AB
Mine Closure 2011 (MC 2011) is an international conference that will be hosted for the first time in Canada. The goal of MC 2011 is to bring together engineers, reclamation scientists, sociologists, economists and environmental specialists to share information about innovative mine closure techniques, strategies, processes and products with the goal of minimizing environmental and social impacts.
We encourage you to visit our website (in progress) at http://www.mineclosure2011.com or call or email Ms. Catherine Puchalski at (403) 299-6442 or catherine@mineclosure2011.com to find out more about this conference.

Links and Articles Worth Sharing

The Risk Assessment Calculator for evaluating the possible risk of an invasive species is now available at: http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/riskcalculator

Alberta Native Plant Council has updated the Native Plant Source List, which is a list of suppliers of native plant source materials, to support and promote the use of native Alberta plants for environmental restoration. To download this list, please visit the ANPC website at www.anpc.ab.ca .

BEN is the Botanical Electronic Newsletter http://victoria.tc.ca/mailman/listinfo/ben-l

UofA Biological Science seminars and events http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news_events/events/

For information about Nature Alberta, formerly Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN), go to its website http://naturealberta.ca